(*)* to what extent the power crisis ail In11 shedding was attribu-ta')! - to th; in fficiency of the State E'cctricity Boards and what action Government propose to take against sgligent functionaries of the Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The power shortage in some States is mainly on account of reduced hydel generation due to low reserviour levels and the unsatisfactory performance of some thermal stations. The steps taken to improve the supply of power include expediting commissioning of new capacity, better utilisation of existing capacity, implemnting short gestation projects, reducing transmission and distribution losses, and implementation of enargy conservation and demand management meassures. Asa result power g neration in the country during April to June, 1986 has increased by 104% as compared with the corresponding period of 1985.

(d) No study has been made by the Department of Power regarding the loss suffered by industry only on account of power shortage during 1984-85 to 1986-87.

(e) The pow r shortage is also largely attributable to the demand having outstripped even the increased generation, In order to strengthen the performance of State Electricity Boards, a Centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented to assist the
. State Electricity Boards in renovating and modernising identified thermal stations. Assistance is also b.ing provid d for early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, upgrading the ski lis of operation and maintenance of personnel and arranging the supply of adequate "quantity anil quality of coal and of spare parts, etc.

Inadequate supply of cooking gas in U.P.

*56. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govcrnirunt are aware of the irregular and inadequate supply of cooking gas in most of the U.P. towns causing grave hardship to customers ;

(b) is so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take' to ensure regular cooking gas supply by the various companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) In Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) LPG is markted by three Oil Companies namely Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindus-tan Petroleum C°rP°ration. At present supply of LPG refills by IOC (which accounts for around 75% market share in the State) throughout U.P. is normal. There is a marginal backlog in supply in some of the markets of HPC, primarily due to the distributors no' having placed adcqua.e inde nts with the oil company; HPC is taking this up with the distributors to correct . the situation. Amongst BPC's markets there has bee n inade quate supply in two towns in the State, at Agra due to resignation of a distributor and at Hatbras on account of termination of a distributorship. Alternative arrangements have been made for supply of LPG refills at these place s.'